

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13039 191416Z

70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3196

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF, LE

SUBJ: SOVIET VIEW OF LEBANESE INVOLVEMENT IN CRISIS

REF: BEIRUT 12264

1. SINCE ONE OF MAJOR INGREDIENTS OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE HAS BEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PRESSURE ON NON-COMBATANT ARABS TO JOIN THE FRAY, IT SEEMS LOGICAL THAT SOVIETS MIGHT BE ACTIVELY SEEKING GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF BOTH LEBANON AND FEDAYEEN. EVIDENCE IS SPARSE, HOWEVER.

2. SOVIET MEDIA HAVE TENDED TO OMIT LEBANON FROM LIST OF ARAB COUNTRIES RENDERING SUPPORT TO EGYPT AND SYRIA. PRAVDA COMMENTARY OCTOBER 18, FOR EXAMPLE, NAMED EIGHT ARAB COUNTRIES SUPPORTING COMBATANTS, BUT LEFT OUT LEBANON. ONLY POSITIVE REFERENCE TO LEBANON THAT WE ARE AWARE OF IS TV NEWS REPORT OCTOBER 18 THAT LEBANON IS SUPPLYING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA. ISRAELI ATTACKS ON LEBANESE SITES HAVE RECEIVED SUMMARY ATTENTION IN SOVIET PRESS (E.G.,

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REPORT THAT ISRAELI FORCES CUT LEBANESE UNDERWATER

COMMUNICATIONS CABLE AND SHELLED LEBANESE CIVILIAN
SETTLEMENTS IN PRAVDA OCTOBER 19).

3. FEDAYEEN HAVE BEEN TREATED SPARSELY BUT POSITIVELY
IN MEDIA. PRESS REPORTS ON PALESTINIAN "PARTISAN"
ACTIONS BEHIND ISRAELI LINES HAVE BEEN REPORTED INTER-
MITTENTLY (E.G., PRAVDA OCTOBER 16 AND 18).
DUBS

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